

Northern Lights on display, Page B-10

ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON



JBER celebrates
Black History
Month,
Page B-1

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK
PERMIT No. 220

Volume 2, No. 9

www.jber.af.mil/news

March 4, 2011

Engineers return from yearlong deployment

By Army 1st Lt. Alex Veiga
6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)

The 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, along with family and friends, gathered early Saturday morning to welcome the 23rd Engineer Company (Sapper) in a homecoming ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Buckner Physical Fitness Center.

The company completed a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan's Kandahar province, where its primary mission was to clear roads of explosive hazards for both Afghan nationals and coalition forces in the area.

Despite the harsh operating environment, 100-degree temperatures, and enemy threats, the sappers sustained

only relatively minor injuries, with four Soldiers redeploying early.

After a brief ceremony, families and friends rushed to the gym floor to greet their Soldiers.

"My son was 1 month old when his father left," Debra Aguilar, wife of Spc. Juan Aguilar said. "I am so happy that he is finally home."

"It feels good being home with my family," Pfc. Dereis Richardson said, as he wrapped his hands around his wife and son.

In addition to their assigned mission, the engineers formed part of a quick reaction force and built improvements on their combat outpost.

"The 23rd performed superbly under very demanding combat conditions," said Army Lt. Col. Marc Hoffmeister, 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), commander.

"They met every mission and without question, the dangerous work they conducted to keep IEDs clear of the roads saved many lives, both U.S. and Afghan. We are in awe of what this company achieved over the last year," he said.

The battalion commander told the story of the company's accomplishments to spouses and children gathered to welcome the sappers home.

The Soldiers transformed their base, Combat Outpost Jelawur, from a bare patch of ground where they slept on top



Family members sign a welcome home banner for returning Soldiers, Feb. 25 at Buckner Physical Fitness Center. (Photos by Sgt. Tamika Dillard/3rd MEB PAO)

of trucks, to a facility complete with showers, gyms, tents and a covered motor pool where Soldiers could get some shade and a well-deserved break from the heat, while maintaining mission ready vehicles, Hoffmeister said.

Each day for five months, the 23rd provided all site security and entry control point operations, guarding the gates at COP Jelawur and searching hundreds of entering Afghan delivery trucks, he continued.

The airborne engineers participated in numerous support missions during

their deployment.

In one such mission, the company cleared every village in the Arghendab River Valley in order to push the enemy out of an area that they had been using for 10 years, Hoffmeister said.

"We are incredibly proud of our Sappers and happy to have them home," Hoffmeister said. "This marks the first time in 14 months that the entire battalion has been home together in Alaska."

(Editor's note: Sgt. Tamika Dillard, 3rd MEB PAO, also contributed to this article.)

Air Force Assistance Fund to kick off at Joint Military Mall

By Luke Waack
JBER PAO

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson will open the annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, which raises money for several service charities, at the Joint Military Mall, Wednesday, at 11:15 a.m.

Organizers have set a fundraising goal of \$105,613. Donations to this year's "Commitment to Caring" campaign will assist eligible applicants through Air Force Villages Inc., the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, the Air Force Aid Society, and the Air Force Enlisted Village.

Achieving 100 percent contact with all eligible active-duty Airmen donors is another goal of Air Force Master Sgt. Chad Carver, AFAF campaign manager.

During the JBER campaign, which is scheduled to last until April 15, unit representatives will contact their designated sections to offer the opportunity to donate.

Carver hopes this year's campaign will meet its goal, he said.

"You always have the resource to Air Force aid or if you want to help out your fellow Airmen," Carver said.

Each week, unit reps will report the results of their contact with donors, Carver said, and he will brief commanders on progress.

"If you think about the Air Force as your family, in actuality you're helping your big extended family," Carver said.

There has been an improvement to AFAF to help some donors contribute, Carver said.

"Military retirees can donate with a payroll deduction plan," Carver said.

Any Air Force active-duty service member, retiree, reservist, guard member and their dependents, including surviving spouses, can apply for assistance. Active-duty military members and military retirees can donate through payroll deduction, as long as the deduction lasts three months, and Department of Defense civilians can donate by cash or check, Carver said.

The Air Force Aid Society



From right, Air Force officers, Col. Jack McMullen, 3rd Wing commander, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, Alaskan Command/11th Air Force commanding general, and Col. Rob Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/673d Air Base Wing commander, fill out Air Force Assistance Fund donation slips at Alaskan Command Headquarters. (Photo by Johnathan Green/JBER PAO)

provides emergency assistance to Airmen and their families, and sponsors education and quality of life programs in communities.

The Air Force Enlisted Vil-

lage provides homes for surviving spouses of retired enlisted Airmen. The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation cares for retired Air Force officer widows who need

financial assistance. The LeMay Foundation awards grants to all retired Airmen and their spouses.

For more information, visit www.afassistancefund.org.

NFL star speaks about mental health, troops seek help

Football legend tackles mental-health stigma

By Sgt. Tamika Dillard
3rd MEB PAO

Admitting you have a problem doesn't mean you're weak, Herschel Walker told Soldiers and Airmen Feb. 22 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Post Theater.

"I was born with a speech impediment and I was fat," Walker said. "I was the target for all jokes by other kids."

As a coping mechanism, he explained, he shut himself off from everyone.

"I started exercising – 5,000 pushups and sit-ups a day, pull-ups and chin-ups on a tree limb in my backyard," he said. "Nobody will get me anymore. I felt untouchable. I was a superhero."

"I started writing and working on my speech problem," he said. "I was going to be the best."



Herschel Walker, one of the top running backs in the history of professional football, spoke to troops about mental health Feb. 22 at the JBER Post Theater. (Photo by Sgt. Tamika Dillard/U.S. Army Alaska)

After a distinguished college football career, Walker became one of the top running backs in the sport, gaining more yards than anyone in professional football history, yet he did not know why he could not remember some of his biggest moments.

This other person in his life started to

emerge more often than he realized, stepping in more often, causing him to be angry and think irrationally.

"I realized I had a problem when a car vendor delayed me for more than two weeks," he said.

"When he finally called me back to meet him, I became very upset and I grabbed my gun, put it into the holster and took off, headed to meet this person," Walker said. "One part of me is saying 'No, you should not do this,' while the other part of me is saying 'No, I am going to kill this guy.'"

While the two sides of him were battling it out, he sat down on a nearby stoop and started to pray.

"I prayed – 'God help me. I'm about to do something really stupid,'" he said.

Not too proud to get help

Noted as one of the greatest football players of all time, Herschel Walker was not too proud to admit he needed help.

What he did not realize was he was add-

ing a second person into his life, Walker said, and this person was angry and potentially dangerous.

Walker was dealing with Dissociative Identity Disorder, formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder.

According to Dr. Amal Chakraborty, writing on the site WebMD.com, most of us have experienced mild dissociation, which is like daydreaming or getting lost in the moment while working on a project.

However, Dissociative Identity Disorder is a severe form of dissociation which produces a lack of connection in a person's thoughts, memories, feelings, actions, or sense of identity.

Dissociative Identity Disorder is thought to stem from trauma experienced by the person with the disorder, Chakraborty said.

The dissociative aspect is thought to be a coping mechanism – the person literally dissociates himself from a situation

See **Walker**, Page A-3

Anti-terrorism awareness

Tip of the week: Arctic Watch

- Your eyes and ears-and those of your friends and family can be of enormous help in preventing terrorism.
- You know best what activities do or do-not belong in and around your workplace, neighborhood, and community.
- Suspicious activity can be observed both on and off post, which is why it's so important to know the people who live around you.
- Report terrorist threats or criminal activity
- to 384-0823 and 552-4444



(Courtesy photo)

Inside this week's Arctic Warrior:

Page A-2, commentaries: Black History Month and the annual Air Force assistance campaign

Page A-3, Soldiers take on Expert Infantry Badge training, prior to testing

Page A-4, Civil engineers train for under-ice spills

Page A-9, USARAK completes Cobra Gold 2011

Page A-11, Soldier trains others for northern warfare

WORD ON THE STREET

By LUKE WAACK

What do you think of the next week's daylight saving time move, March 13?

"It's more time for outdoor activities."

Army Capt. Paul Cleary,
Headquarters and Headquarters
Company, 4th Brigade Combat
Team (Airborne),
operations assistant



"I'm glad the days are going to start earlier."

Luann Tursley,
military spouse



"I'm glad because I have seven kids. The daylight makes them a lot happier."

Army Master Sgt. William Whisman,
3rd Maneuver Enhancement
Brigade, senior career
counselor



"I'm glad that we're getting daylight, because I like the sun, but I hate to lose that hour."

Tech. Sgt. Becca Sawin,
673d Force Support
Squadron, customer
support, flight chief



"I don't like it because I lose an hour of sleep; I love my sleep."

Spc. Tabatha Spangler,
425th Brigade Special
Troops Battalion, 4th
Brigade Combat
Team (Airborne)



The *Arctic Warrior* is published by Wick Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs Office.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Arctic Warrior* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of the Army, or Wick Communications of the products or services advertised.

**Alaskan Command/
11th Air Force
Commanding General**
Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins (USAF)

**U.S. Army Alaska
Commanding General**
Brig. Gen. Raymond P. Palumbo (USA)

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/
673d Air Base Wing Commander**
Col. Robert D. Evans (USAF)

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/
673d Air Base Wing vice Commander**
Col. Timothy R. Prior (USA)

JBER Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Joseph Coslett (USAF)

JBER Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Bob Hall

Internal Information Chief
John Pennell

Arctic Warrior staff
Luke Waack - senior editor
David Bedard - community editor
Chris McCann
Air Force Staff Sgt.
Jeremy Larlee - sports editor
Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia
Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

To advertise in the *Arctic Warrior*, please call (907) 561-7737. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the *Arctic Warrior* staff.

Editorial office: Building 10480, Suite 123; Mailing address: JBER Public Affairs, 10480 22nd St., Suite 123, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506; telephone (907) 552-8918.

Send emails about news stories to Arctic.Warrior@elmendorf.af.mil and luke.waack@elmendorf.af.mil.

Deadline for article and photos is 4:30 p.m., Monday, for the week of publication. Articles and photos will be published on a space-available basis and are subject to editing by the *Arctic Warrior* staff. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Editorial & Opinion

Taking care of our own



Air Force Col. Rob Evans, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and 673d Air Base Wing commander, reviews his Air Force Assistance Fund donation slip at Alaskan Command headquarters, Feb. 22. (Photo by Johnathon Green/JBER PAO)

Commentary by Air Force
Col. Rob Evans
JBER/673d ABW commander

For more than 60 years now, the U.S. Air Force has been an integral part of our nation's armed services; defending democracy and freedom for those around the globe.

Whether it was Korea, Vietnam, in the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo or Afghanistan, the Air Force has been there.

All of the services share a tradition of taking care of our own.

The Air Force is a proud partner of the joint team and maintains a strong heritage of taking care of its own; both aboard and here on the home front.

This month, I ask all of the Airmen of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson community, past and present, active or Reserve, to make a pledge to take care of their fellow Airmen.

The Air Force Assistance Fund was established just for that purpose.

The AFAF raises funds for the

charitable affiliates which provides support to the Air Force family in need. The organizations benefiting from your donation include the Air Force Villages, Inc.; the Air Force Aid Society, Inc.; the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.

These organizations help Air Force people with aid in an emergency, with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

At JBER, our AFAF campaign begins Wednesday and will run through April 15 and we are shooting to raise more than \$105,000.

The Air Force goal this year is to make 100 percent contact and raise \$6.3 million.

I know how tight things are for all of us, especially with our nation's current economic situation.

That said, I know this team can come together and deliver mission success.

I'm confident that if we pull together we'll be able to make our goal; perhaps even surpass it.

The key is not in "how much" we give, but more in "how many" give. Work is light when many are at work.

You contribution to the AFAF, whether it's through a cash, check or payroll deduction donation, will lend critical support to your fellow Airmen and their families.

We are not asking for much.

If a few dollars a month is what you can afford, that's all you should be giving.

Every little bit helps in ways you can't imagine.

It's said that Winston Churchill once remarked, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

JBER celebrates Black History Month

Commentary by
Air Force Maj. Lisa Reaver
477th Fighter Group PAO

If you weren't able to attend the base Black History Month observance program this year, presented by the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson National Observance Committee and hosted by the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, you missed out.

The ceremony was a celebration of diversity in a number of ways.

The planning team did a great job of including Army and Air Force, active duty and the Reserve.

The program was dynamic and met the DoD intent of educating military members about the Civil War, while also making the program relevant to today.

An informative slideshow designed by Sgt. 1st Class William Boberg from the 4-25th ABCT, highlighted African-American contributions to the Civil War.

An inspiring piece from Eric Mata, "I Am," was showcased in spoken word by Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Angela Valentine from the 673d Force Support Squadron.

De'Meatrice Hodges sang a rousing rendition of "Amazing Grace," and Air Force Master Sgt. Henry Strozier encouraged a moment of contemplation when he asked the audience to consider why people of color served their country back then, and why they serve now.

For my part in the program, I was honored to tell the story of the Air Force Reserve's 477th Fighter Group and 302nd Fighter Squadron, as World War II Tuskegee heritage units.

We carry forward a strong legacy of courage and excellence, while blazing new trails operating F-22 Raptors.

The 302nd Fighter Squadron flew P-51s in World War II, escorting bombers in combat.

The planes piloted by Tuskegee Airmen had red-painted tails and came to be known as "red-tailed angels" to those they escorted and "red-tailed devils" to those they opposed, because the African-American pilots boasted a nearly perfect bomber-escort record.

The 302nd embraced the name in their mascot, a hellion on a pitchfork, and included the likeness on their patch.

The 302nd Fighter Squadron today flies F-22s here, but the pilots still wear the same hellion patch



Retired Lt. Col. James Warren, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, swaps flying stories with Maj. Kevin Sutterfield of the 302nd Fighter Squadron during the Tuskegee Airmen's 38th Annual National Convention Aug. 6, 2009. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Cary McPartlin)

with pride.

The 477th Bombardment Group never saw combat, but were instead shuttled from one stateside base to another.

However, nine years before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks sparked national attention, members of the 477th made history of their own when they peacefully demonstrated by entering a whites-only officers club at Freeman Field, Ind.

By the end of the second day of what later was dubbed "the Freeman Field Mutiny," 101 black officers had been arrested.

More information about the mutiny can be found at www.nps.gov/pwso/honor/tuskegee.htm.

These men risked everything they had worked for and achieved to stop discrimination and injustice on their military installation.

Their efforts contributed to President Truman's issuance of Executive Order 9981 which officially ended discrimination within the military.

Members of the 477th Fighter Group are reminded of the legacy of courage and determination they carry forward, not only because of the pictures on the walls in their building but by actually meeting these legendary Airmen.

Not only was a retired Tuske-

gee Airman, Lt. Col. James Warren, in the ceremony to activate the unit when it stood up, but every year since activation, Arctic Reservists from the 477th travel to the Tuskegee Airmen national convention to meet those who have served in the unit and show them what we are doing here to carry on their legacy.

We have a rich history on JBER, woven into the fabric of what we celebrate during Black History Month, and it was great to get the opportunity to share that history with folks at the program.

In addition to the on-stage program, there were artifacts from the Civil War, people dressed in period uniforms mingling about, and a wall dedicated to African-American Medal of Honor recipients from past conflicts.

Although the ops-tempo is faster than ever and it was difficult for some to get away from their daily tasks, it was clear to those in attendance that a lot of work went into the program.

After talking to people afterward, I know I speak for many when I express my gratitude for the opportunity to be there and the chance to stop for a minute and be reminded of the sacrifices of those who came before us.

Soldiers train for Expert Infantry Badge test

By Airman 1st Class
Jack Sanders
JBER PAO

Soldiers from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson received training Feb. 22-24, to prepare to test for the Expert Infantry Badge.

The EIB represents the understanding of basic infantry tasks, said Army Staff Sgt. Ian McGlocklyn, an infantry Soldier with Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, and an EIB training instructor.

McGlocklyn specifically challenged Soldiers on radio operation information in his training lane.

“It’s about our ability to accomplish ... (numerous) tasks and be proficient in those tasks and drills,” McGlocklyn said.

The EIB may only be worn by infantry and Special Forces troops, McGlocklyn said.

The badge is difficult to obtain, with only a small percentage of troops that take the test passing, McGlocklyn said.

Some of the drills include using an Advanced System Improvement Program radio, using M-60 or M-240B machine guns, basic first aid, correctly using protective masks, performing individual camouflage, moving under direct fire, identifying terrain features on a map and employing hand grenades.

“A lot of (what we’re doing) is the training we do behind the scenes prior to the EIB testing,” said Sgt. Darrin Jolly, Company A, 1-501st.

The tasks are important for any Soldier to know, especially considering the Army’s full-spectrum operations, McGlocklyn said.

But for infantry Soldiers, he said, “this is our bread and butter.”

McGlocklyn said he remembers the pressure and fear of failure he had when taking the test as a private in 2005.

“I knew it was really important to (earn the badge), to know these things; but it was the first time that I’d seen some of it and actually



Spc. Jeremy Walker, A Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), shows a fellow Soldier how to turn the barrel of the M240B machine gun while practicing assembling and disassembling the weapon. Walker is part of a group of Soldiers who were training for their Expert Infantry Badge, Feb. 22. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders/JBER PAO)

applied it.”

McGlocklyn says the test and the training for it has improved since 2005.

“They’ve gone to the new three-lane (EIB course) where they take 10 or so tasks and put them into a long stream and a combined action together,” McGlocklyn said. “It’s actually applied and more (like) real life. It seems the intent was to make it more legitimate and important to the Soldier, because now they see how combined all these things together will actually make a mission in a sense.”

McGlocklyn said he had his share of moments in which the training he received for the EIB

came in handy during missions.

“Now I realize that I was taught all these things so that I could be successful in the real world. Even before the EIB I was learning this stuff because of its importance,” McGlocklyn said.

The EIB training the troops are doing now is important, time wise, since the Army does year long deployments and it’s rare for infantrymen to find the time to acquire their EIB, Jolly said.

McGlocklyn said he wished more Soldiers were required to

take the course, because he feels everyone can benefit from it, not just infantrymen.

“It’d be beneficial if a lot more (Soldiers) were involved, so when they’re actually downrange it’s not the first time they see a .50-caliber machine gun or a Mark 19 or a radio,” he said. “Even a little course here will give you a little confidence in your ability to use it.”

The ability to use the information will be put to the test when the Soldiers test for the EIB; for the infantry Soldiers a little pride

may be on the line as well.

“I’ve been in the Army for a while now and I’d like to be able to get that badge,” Jolly said. “I want to show that I am an expert infantryman that I can do my tasks at the expert level.”

“I remember doing this as a private and I had really good leadership,” McGlocklyn said. “Hopefully I can give that back to my Soldiers so that they’re successful in doing this. I’d like to see 100 percent of my guys getting their EIB.”



ABOVE: Pfc. Bahram Sorkhe simulates delivering a salute report to higher headquarters. Sorkhe and other members of Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division trained Feb. 22 through the 24 for their Expert Infantry Badge. LEFT: Pfc. Bahram Sorkhe puts a radio together in order to simulate delivering a salute report to higher headquarters. Sorkhe and other members of Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division trained Feb. 22 through the 24 for their Expert Infantry Badge. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders/JBER PAO)

Walker

From Page A-1

or experience that’s too violent, traumatic, or painful to assimilate with his conscious self, Chakraburty wrote.

Walker said he created an alter ego for himself at a young age to counter all the painful experiences he faced growing up.

Stopping the stigma

A National Institute for Mental Health study concluded that 26 percent of adults in the United States “suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.” Despite that, seeking help still has a stigma associated with it.

That stigma persists in the military, according to an American Psychiatric Association study, which found that 60 percent of military members think seeking help for mental health concerns would have at least some negative impact on their career.

As the spokesman for the Freedom Care Program, a specialized mental health and addiction treatment program for service members, Walker said he hopes to stop that stigma among military members.

On behalf of Freedom Care, he

has visited more than 20 military installations sharing his story with more than 6,000 troops.

‘If you’re suffering, get help’

“We try to minimize the stigma by making it a part of the unit’s pre-deployment screening,” said Army Staff Sgt. Lindsay Barth, noncommissioned officer in charge of Behavioral Health at the JBER Troop Medical Clinic.

“We screen Soldiers and provide them with a lot of information before they deploy,” Barth said. “While down range, each unit has a Combat Stress Control Team to help Soldiers when they develop problems. Once Soldiers arrive back to Alaska we screen them again and then it’s left up to the Soldiers to seek further treatment.”

Soldiers normally don’t realize they truly have a problem until three to four months have passed and their symptoms are not letting up, according to Barth.

Hearing Walker talk about his struggles inspired one Soldier to seek help.

“I was deployed for 17 months in Iraq as a supply specialist,” said Sgt. Cory Glenn, now a supply sergeant with the 545th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. “I realize now that I had possibly created a



Herschel Walker speaks to JBER Soldiers and Airmen Feb. 22 at the Post Theater. Walker is the spokesman for the Freedom Care Program in 2008, a specialized mental health and addiction treatment program for service members. (Photo by Sgt. Tamika Dillard/U.S. Army Alaska)

new person within myself to adapt to the situation. I am not the same person I was before the deployment.”

Glenn said since hearing Walker speak, he visited the mental health department at the Troop Medical Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

“Today we have one of football’s greatest players before us,

giving us the courage to seek help,” Glenn said. “If you are suffering, get help.”

Seeking help can benefit both the Soldier and the mission, according to Barth.

“You need to be healthy mentally, physically and emotionally,” Barth said. “If you are not, you cannot perform your job to the best of your ability.”

If you, or someone you know is suffering from mental illness contact the JBER-Richardson Troop Medical Clinic at 384-1167, or the Military Family Life Consultant at 907-440-8200.

You can also find help online at www.militaryonesource.com or U.S. Army Alaska’s Crisis Assistance Program page at www.usarak.army.mil/crisisassistance.

Annual ice ops test emergency response for spill clean-up

By Senior Airman
Christopher Gross
JBER PAO

Nobody can predict an oil spill, but when one happens it can be a challenging feat to clean up, especially with more than 30 inches of ice in the way.

That's why 60 members from various agencies including the Air Force 611th Civil Engineer Squadron, U.S. Coast Guard, the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Alaska Chadux Corporation teamed up in the annual Ice Operation Exercise, Monday and Thursday.

The training took place at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Six-Mile Lake and crews practiced techniques designed to clean up under-ice oil spills.

For approximately half the participants, this was their first time at "Ice Ops" in temperatures as low as zero degrees.

The 611th CES is stationed at JBER and is a mobile unit that must be ready at all times, taking primary responsibility over King Salmon and Eareckson Air Station, Shemya Island, Alaska.

"You never know when you're going to have an oil spill and that's not the time to be out there trying to figure out how something operates," said Scott



Tech. Sgt. Andrew Perrin, 611th Civil Engineer Squadron, looks on as Tech. Sgt. Lucas Clark, 611th CES, uses a Bobcat to push a block of ice back into the water Tuesday at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Six-Mile Lake during the annual Ice Operations Exercise. Ice Ops trains responders to clean up oil spills under many feet of ice. (Photos by Senior Airman Christopher Gross/JBER PAO)

Anderson, 611th CES chief of environmental operations.

Anderson said he thought the training was going well after day

one. He said the day usually starts slow, but once everybody gets introduced and the operation is up and running the communication picks up and the job gets done.

Before the exercise began, a group measured ice thickness and the contour on the bottom of the ice using a ground penetrating radar device, blocking off an area approximately 200 by 300 feet.

This report let incident commanders know which areas of the lake were best to practice on, how much weight the ice could withstand and where good ice pockets were.

Once the units determined where on the ice to train, the groups spread out, each having a different method to practice, and they set up the necessary equipment.

Emergency workers cut a square in the ice and placed a drum skimmer in the water to simulate collecting oil with one method.

In another technique, nine blocks of ice were carved into the lake surface, forming a square. Participants then drilled a hole through the center of each block, and dropped a chain and anchor through the hole to heave the blocks of ice out of the water.

The rope-mop skimmer and trench was another method being used.

A 10-to 12-inch wide, six-to eight-inch deep and 40 to 50-foot trench was carved into the ice using a Bobcat skid-steer loader.

Workers then used augurs to drill several holes through the ice into pockets absent of ice. Oil, being lighter than water, would float to the surface through the holes.

Team members practiced with a rope-mop skimmer which rotated through the water to simulate collecting oil which could then be dumped into a pan.

Another group cut slits into the ice and placed large pieces of plywood into them to simulate directing the oil to where it was being collected.

These were only some of several methods personnel practiced throughout the day.

David Simmeraman, of the NSS, said he felt everybody did rather well, working together.

"It's great we (have a lot) of personnel from all over the place," Simmeraman said. "Some folks are new to Alaska, so they're not used to the cold environment, (but) overall they're adjusting extremely

well, they want to jump in and get their hands on the equipment, it's been a very good experience for everyone involved."

The NSS brought lots of expertise to the exercise.

During the Deep Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil spill last summer, the NSS from JBER deployed approximately 10 of its members, including Simmerman, with supplies to help with relief efforts.

Simmeraman said some of the employees have been here 12 to 16 years.

Even though some have been here for more than 16 years, he felt it was important to mesh the different units, Simmeraman said, because if something were to ever happen in King Salmon or Shemya, they'll be right there working with the 611th CES.

It's good to put faces with names and have this opportunity to work together, he said.

Overall, Anderson said he felt this year's exercise was yet again a success. After the completion of this training, Anderson has confidence that his team could go wherever they need to and adjust to circumstances and get the job of cleaning up an oil spill done.



Tech. Sgt. Andrew Perrin, 611th Civil Engineer Squadron rolls up a rope-mop at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Six-Mile Lake during the annual Ice Operations Exercise, Tuesday.

Briefs and Announcements

Dr. Ravi Zacharias

Dr. Ravi Zacharias, an international evangelical Christian apologist, will speak at the Talkeetna Theater at 1 p.m., Friday.

The event is open to Department of Defense ID cardholders and their guests are invited.

Furnishings management

The Furnishings Management Office offers 90-day loaner furniture for Airmen arriving at or leaving JBER Elmendorf.

The FMO also has appliances for Airmen residing off base, for long term use. Delivery and pick-up is provided for 90-day loaner furniture and appliances. The FMO also has long term furniture for franks E-1 through E-5.

These items are available on a first-come first-serve basis. The service member is responsible for transporting these furnishings.

Airmen should take a copy of PCS orders to the Government Housing Office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Dr. to schedule furniture delivery.

Call 552-2740 for any questions regarding the FMO program. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shops

The Thrift Shop, Building 724, Quartermaster Road, Door 8, is open Tuesday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Wednesday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and Thursday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. The Thrift Shop is also open the first and third Saturday of each month, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Bargain Shop, 8515 Saville Ave., is open Tuesday, Wednes-

day, and Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

AER scholarships

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program helps Army families with undergraduate college expenses for their dependent children.

The 2011-2012 scholarship application and requirement information are available at www.aerhq.org. Deadline for submissions is April 1. The Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program is designed to provide spouses of active-duty and retired Soldiers, and widows or widowers of Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, and reside in the U.S., with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals.

For more information, call 384-7478.

Daylight saving time

Daylight saving time goes into effect, March 13, at 2 a.m. People should set clocks forward one hour accordingly.

Volunteers needed

Air Force Volunteers are needed for Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command missions to Vietnam and Laos. Volunteers can have any Air Force Specialty Code.

The mission to Vietnam takes place May 10 to June 11. There will be two missions to Laos; April 18 to June 5 and June 13 to July 31.

All volunteers must be approved by their commander via signed memorandum to proceed on a 45 day TDY; have a fitness score of 75 or greater; possess a tourist or

official passport that does not expire within six months of mission completion and be in the grade of E-5 through E-8.

Senior airmen can apply but commanders must attest to the selected Airman's professionalism. This mission is unit funded.

For more information call DSN 449-9721 or visit https://13af.ops.hickam.af.mil/sites/index.cfm?event=index&page_id=581&tab_id=782.

Tax offices

The U.S. Army Alaska Tax Center is open to provide tax preparation and advice to service members, retirees, family members, and eligible members of the Reserve component through April 18.

The center is in Room 306, Building 600. Hours are Monday to Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursday, 1-8 p.m.

For more information, call 384-1040.

The 673d Air Base Wing Tax Office is next to Customer Service on the first floor of Building 8517, in the People Center, and remain open through April 18.

Hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tax preparation is free of charge, but limited to valid military ID card holders.

Customers should bring Social Security cards or a statement from the Social Security Administration bearing their Social Security Number to the Tax Center.

Spice briefings

Joint Base Elmendorf-Rich-

ardson invites family members to Spice, synthetic marijuana, briefings.

There will be a briefing March 28, from 6-8 p.m., in the JBER-Richardson Theater and March 29, from 10 a.m. to noon in the JBER-Elmendorf Theater.

Military fatherhood award

Nominate a deserving dad for the 2011 Military Fatherhood Award sponsored by the National Fatherhood Initiative at www.fatherhood.org.

Voting poster contest

Entries are now being accepted for the Federal Voting Assistance Program poster and slogan contest.

The contest is open to U.S. citizens worldwide, via challenge.gov.

Contests should use ideas from fvap.gov to inspire members of the military, their families and U.S. citizens residing overseas to participate in elections while away from home.

More information can be found at fvap.gov or <http://challenge.gov/dod/115-absentee-voting-slogan-contest>. Winners will receive a trip to Washington D.C., to participate in special events and tours.

Munitions Storage

The 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Munitions Flight, will be closed until March 11, to conduct a 100 percent closed-warehouse inventory.

Any munitions requirements during this time will be considered "emergency" and will require coordination through the respective group commander.

For more information call Senior Master Sgt. William Mothersell at 552-2589 or Air Force Master Sgt. David Scarsella at 552-3119.

Defense logistics

The Defense Logistics Agency (formerly Document Automation Production Services) provides a variety of document services including programs, in-flight guides and training manuals.

The DLA office is located in Building 984 on Warehouse Street.

For questions or document services call 384-2901.

Housing referral

Visit the Automated Housing Referral Network at www.AHRN.com (sponsored by the Department of Defense) to find housing at a current or upcoming Permanent Change of Station location. [AHRN.com](http://www.AHRN.com) listings include available community rentals, military housing, shared rentals, temporary lodging and military for sale by owner listings.

Listings include property descriptions, pictures, maps, links to local schools, and contact information. If you would like to rent your home, post a "For Sale by Owner" listing, or are looking for another service member as a roommate in your current home, you may place an add free of charge on the site.

Correction

In last week's *Arctic Warrior*, Senior Airman Charles Heady, 673d Medical Group biomedical technician, was misidentified as Senior Airman Joshua Henry.

Tax changes affect KY, MN, NM and OK

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Military members claiming legal residency in Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico and Oklahoma may have all or part of their 2010 qualifying military pay exempt from state income taxes.

The legislation covering the exemptions was effective for all of calendar year 2010 for Kentucky, Minnesota and New Mexico; the legislation for Oklahoma was effective July 1, 2010. When DFAS receives changes to state tax laws affecting our customers, systems are updated to ensure payments

reflect the necessary withholding.

There are cases when these changes occur after some members have had some now-exempt military pay withheld. These members can file a 2010 state income tax return to receive withholdings of exempt pay. Certain pay received by military members are not exempt from state income tax withholding.

These include:

- Cadets and midshipmen who are residents of the states of Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico or Oklahoma
- Academy preparatory students (including prior enlisted prep students) who are residents of

the states of Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico or Oklahoma

- ROTC, including the ROTC pay of dual-status members who are residents of the states of Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico or Oklahoma
- College First students who are residents of the states of Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico or Oklahoma
- Medical stipends, including Nurse Candidate Continuation bonuses for residents of the states of Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico or Oklahoma

Visit www.dfas.mil for more information.



155-mm Howitzers to fire

The 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, will be firing 105-mm and 155-mm artillery rounds Tuesday through Thursday, until 8 p.m. (Photo by Percy Jones/JBER PAO)

Paratroopers finish Thailand partnership training exercise

By Army Staff Sgt.
Matthew E. Winstead
4-25th ABCT PAO

CAMPERAWAN, Thailand — Soldiers from U.S. Army Alaska’s 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), stood beside members of the Royal Thai Army’s 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, King’s Guard, for a ceremony marking the official end of training for Exercise Cobra Gold 2011.

The ceremony took place on the same field where Cobra Gold started for the U.S. Army paratroopers almost two weeks ago.

The guest VIP for the event was Maj. Gen. Kampanart Ruthdit, commanding general for the Royal Thai Army’s 1st Division.

As the leadership of the Thai and U.S. battalions stood at attention for the commanding Thai general, members of both armies read aloud a mission brief summarizing the training during Cobra Gold 2011.

After a Thai officer finished the brief in his language, Army Capt. John Parks, assistant battalion executive officer for the 3-509th, echoed it in English.

“Sir, 1,338 Thai and 194 U.S. have been trained during Cobra Gold 11 for a combined total of 1,432 successfully trained, sir,” Parks announced.

As ceremonial U.S. and Thai flags were lowered and the soldiers dismissed from the parade field, some from both nations lingered to take pictures with personal cameras and speak with each other in broken languages as they tried to use the few words they had picked up during the weeks of training together.

“Being here has given me new



Maj. Gen. Kampanart Ruthdit, commanding general of the Royal Thai Army's 1st Division, shakes the hand of 1st Sgt. Richard C. Wiley, A Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), while inspecting Thai and U.S. troops at a Feb. 17 closing ceremony for Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. (Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Winstead/4-25th ABCT PAO)

perspective on the locals of the area,” said Pfc. Nicolas Hebert, a rifleman for 1st Platoon, A Co., 3-509th, who said he loves politics and current events.

Hebert said it was interesting to learn about Thailand’s unique issues.

“We’re not the only ones with

conflict,” Hebert said.

Others in the company focused more on the social aspect of their time in Thailand.

“I loved how we could relate to the Thai army guys so easily,” said Pfc. Sergei Hudson, a squad automatic weapon gunner for 2nd Platoon, A Co., 3-509th. “They

all had similar views. I guess it’s because of that military mindset we all have. But I liked the locals too. I loved when we got to go out into town, everyone was so friendly.”

In addition to the training aspects of Cobra Gold, the exercise is intended to bring cultures together and expand on existing friendships.

During their time together, U.S. and Thai paratroopers traded jokes, tales of the field, unit patches and cuisine. Photos of family members and favorite hangouts were passed around at gatherings of off-duty troops from both countries, making the cultural gap just a little narrower.



ABOVE: The guidon of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), ripples in the wind as the unit's Soldiers move into formation for the Feb. 17 closing ceremony of Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. LEFT: Thai and U.S. officers discuss plans and tactical options under cover of darkness during a Cobra Gold training mission. ABOVE, LEFT: The Thai and U.S. command elements present arms along with Maj. Gen. Kampanart Ruthdit, the commanding general of the Royal Thai Army's 1st Division, during the Feb. 17 closing ceremony of Exercise Cobra Gold 2011.

NCO teaches arctic warfare, mountain skills

Battling cold, climbing peaks at the Army's Northern Warfare Training Center

By Sgt. Trish McMurphy
USARAK PAO

FORT WAINWRIGHT — Army Rangers, Navy Seals, and Special Forces are all considered elite troops in the U.S. military, and they are highly-trained in their fields and prepared for just about any worst-case scenario.

But what if a helicopter was redirected to a frozen mountain range in Afghanistan?

Would they know how to adapt and overcome the cold and rugged terrain?

If they trained at the Army's Northern Warfare Training Center, the answer would be "yes."

Who's tough enough to train such an elite force?

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Willey, and instructors like



Army Staff Sgt. Paul Willey, an instructor at the Army's Northern Warfare Training Center inspects a student's equipment during the Basic Mountaineering Course, at Black Rapids Training Site. Willey has taught arctic warfare, survival and mountaineering courses at the school for the past three years. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Brehl Garza/USARAK Tactical Documentation Team)

him at the NWTC train hundreds of troops each year for arctic survival.

Willey experienced a "helicopter stranded on a mountain top" scenario when his unit was deployed to Afghanistan in 2003.

"... we got pulled into a

(quick reaction force) mission, we had to relieve the Rangers for an aircraft that had gone down and it was in the mountains," Willey said, "We're out there and there is snow everywhere, and these guys have their Gore-Tex jackets over BDUs."

"There was a lot of rank and a lot of experience there," he said, "and they had no idea how to survive in the cold, but here comes Willey literally walking around the perimeter trying to modify their uniforms."

He said one of the Rangers asked him, "How do you know all this?"

I just came from Alaska and I learned this at this school," Willey said, referring to the Cold Weather Leaders Course.

Willey attended the course in 2000 and returned three years ago to become an instructor.

Willey has trained Soldiers to survive in the arctic and to traverse difficult mountainous terrain.

Instructors teach everything from the basics of skiing and snowshoeing to rappelling and crossing ravines.

"We teach how to move on snowshoes, we teach them how to move on skis, and they are always going to have their rucksack," Willey said. "It is more than just a heavy piece of equipment they have to carry around; it has everything they need to survive in there."

All instructors must be able to perform the tasks of the given course to standard and then attend an instructor qualification course, Willey said.

"They have to be able to pitch these classes back to us, their peers, before they even get in front of a student," Willey said.

After new instructors properly demonstrate the lessons they will teach, they are observed for a period of time to make sure they're ready, he said.

Instructors also take courses above and beyond what is taught at the NWTC, Willey said, "just to make us better instructors."

Soldiers go to Anchorage for advanced avalanche courses, Joshua Tree National Park in California for advanced mountain training, and go through what Willey

describes as a "(combat life saver) class on steroids."

While he teaches advanced skills unique to mountainous and arctic environments, Willey said he also stresses the importance of soldiering basics.

"We give a land navigation refresher and I have had (sergeants first class) that have failed," Willey said. "It's amazing, because everyone is so reliant on their GPS. What happens when the batteries die?"

"By the time they leave here they have a better understanding of how their equipment works and how to use it successfully," he said.

Because of their skills and expertise, instructors are sometimes called upon to assist in search and recovery missions with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

At one recovery site, Willey said, "we put in hand lines and cut the steps and did everything to make sure (the recovery team) could traverse to the top safely."

Willey will soon be leaving Alaska for another duty assignment.

He said he will pass on his wealth of knowledge to his new Soldiers and peers, so if one day, they ever encounter arctic or mountainous terrain, in Afghanistan, for example, they will know how to survive and accomplish their mission safely.

Army and Air Force delegates work together in Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's inaugural Joint Army Family Action Plan conference, Page B-5



ARCTIC WARRIOR COMMUNITY

www.jber.af.mil/news



Use safe practices when hitting snow-machine trails, Page B-6

Volume 2, No. 9

March 4, 2011

Music in our Schools



X
d
3rd

LEFT: Boy Scout Patrick O’Neal takes notes which will be used to earn his Music Merit Badge. Members of the 9th Army Band gave the Eagle River Boy Scout Troop 229 a quick history of music appreciation and familiarized them with instruments from the brass section, Feb. 24. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson/3rd MEB PAO)

BELOW: Army Staff Sgt. James McSwain, 9th Army Band, plays the French horn with students during a music clinic at East High School, Feb. 25. (Photo by Sgt. Tamika Dillard/3rd MEB PAO)

9th Army Band hosts East High School Band

Soldiers of the 9th Army Band often serve as liaisons between the military and the community, using music to tell Army stories.

Members of the 9th Army Band told that story and shared their music with students from the East High School Band, Feb. 25, through a program called Music in Our Schools.

Through the nationwide program, Army bands visit schools to perform and to promote music education and appreciation, according to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeffrey Price, the band’s commander.

“We were all encouraged by our music teachers, encouraged while at school to love music,” Price said. “That’s why we do what we do now.”

Soldiers started the morning off with a surprise performance from their new pupils – a rare opportunity for the Soldier-musicians to sit back, relax and enjoy a musical piece being played for them.

“Play more,” Price said. “Keep going – my ears are just tickling from the music.”

After the students’ final piece, it was time for 9th Army band members to join in for the next performance and provide mentorship for the students who played like instruments.

With the combined performance, students were able to get a real feel for how the professionals play.

The interaction proved to be very positive for one East High School student and band member.

“I had so much fun playing alongside the 9th Army Band, said Deven Inch, 16-year-old percussion player for the East High School Band and Orchestra. “The band director was very energetic. He kept us on our feet the whole way.”

Before they began, Price told some jokes to relax the young musicians, encouraged them and gave them some professional advice.

“Music is about focus, motivation and athleticism,” Price told the students. “You have to practice, practice and practice some more.”

East High School Band Director Ericka Ninoyu watched her students as they absorbed what Price was telling them.

“We are very grateful for this opportunity,” Ninoyu said. “The students are so excited and a little bit nervous. It is just amazing that they were able to come and do this for the students.”

School visits are a particular interest for U.S. Army Alaska, according to Price, as it gives the command a chance to showcase the unique training and capabilities of the 9th Army Band.

It also gives the Soldiers a unique professional development opportunity, he noted, because they’re able to work with an age group they are not accustomed to instructing.

Soldiers help local troop earn music merit badge

By Army Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson
3rd MEB PAO

Members of U.S. Army Alaska’s 9th Army Band gave members of Boy Scout Troop 229 a music lesson, Feb. 24, in Eagle River.

The Soldiers presented the Scouts a brief history of music appreciation and familiarized them with instruments from the brass section.

They also demonstrated the different genres of music throughout the ages, playing different period pieces to demonstrate each.

In addition to providing a music lesson, the information helped the scouts gain the knowledge they needed to earn their music merit badges.

Army Staff Sgt. Dale McSwain, the bandleader, started the presentation with a breakdown of the different instrumental groups.

“The five musical instrument groups are brass, electronic, strings, woodwinds, and percussion,” McSwain, a native of Shelby, N.C.,

told the Scouts.

“Of course we represent the brass, which is the best musical group,” he joked, with his French horn in hand.

Each band member gave them a brief history of the instrument they were playing and the band played music from a different era of music.

They played “Rondeau” from the classical period, “Salvation is Created” from the romantic period, as well as “Just a Closer Walk” from the jazz and Dixieland era.

Army Staff Sgt. Alton Huckaby, a trumpet player explained it’s hard work and takes a lot of practice.

“Can you guess how long I’ve been playing this?” Huckaby, a Houston, Texas native, asked the crowd. “I’ll have to do the math!”

He then closed eyes in deep concentration while silently counting. He opened his eyes and smiled.

“It’s been 18 years since I’ve been playing this and I am still learning how to do this,” he said.

Some of the Soldiers said they

had been Scouts themselves.

Sgt. Jason Taylor, a trumpet player with the 9th Army Band, was a Scout at age 12 when his father was stationed in Italy.

“It was a great way to meet new friends and learn to do new and interesting things,” Taylor said.

“Our purpose is to perform and hopefully educate these young Boy Scouts with music,” the Stafford, Va., native said. “We are going to go through a brief history of different music styles and the different instruments we have tonight. Hopefully that can help them earn their music merit badge.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeff Price, 9th Army Band commander, was excited to have the opportunity to help the Boy Scout Troops in a community function.

“We are Soldiers serving Soldiers,” Price said. “On a daily basis throughout USARAK we have opportunities to play for and make sure that Soldiers know they are important. In the same way, when we go out into the community, it’s a way to let them know what the

Army does.”

The Scouts were then given the opportunity to ask questions. One Scout asked if the Soldiers play other instruments.

“I like to play guitar sometimes to do something different, because I’ve been playing this for so long, and sometimes I like to sing karaoke just to have some fun,” Taylor said.

The Scouts were not the only ones interested to hear what the Army band members had to say. The parents also asked questions.

“Is a piano a percussion or string instrument?” a parent asked.

Price let everyone guess before revealing, “It’s a percussion (instrument) because it’s struck. The hammer strikes.”

“Is every band member a rifleman also?” the parent asked.

Without hesitation, the band members answered in unison, “Rifleman first!”

Lucas Mahi, senior patrol leader for Troop 229 said he enjoyed the interaction between the Soldiers and Scouts. He has also

played the trumpet for four years.

“I liked how they talked about the different genres of music. I also liked how they showed us the brass instruments,” Mahi said. “The Army helped everyone get into the scouting spirit. Since they are the adulthood version of Scouts, it helps us become better Scouts.”

Lahsen Mahi, assistant Scout master, and also Lucas’ father, said there were many positives which come out of the interaction: an appreciation of music, community involvement, patriotism, and perseverance.

“They’ve seen a lot of individuals here that have been playing instruments for 15 years,” Mahi said, “They are doing something that they actually like. I think (the Scouts) could be inspired music-wise, towards their country or (to) set new goals.”

“I noticed the Scouts really appreciated it,” Mahi said with a smile. “They were really quiet and that’s one of the few times that they (have) sat in awe, listening.”

JBER celebrates African-American history



Col. Morris Goins, commander of 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, gives closing remarks at the Black History Month observance, Feb. 25, at the Talkeetna Theater. (Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler/4-25th ABCT PAO)

By Sgt. Marcus Butler
4-25th ABCT PAO

From the Civil War to the war on terror, African Americans have been on the front lines fighting for the freedom which makes the United States of America great.

Service members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson gathered at the Talkeetna Theater, Feb. 25, to celebrate and remember the achievements and sacrifices of African Americans, past and present.

The Black History Month observance included poetry, singing, military history and self reflection.

“African-American history month is a great way for all service members to celebrate and remember the sacrifices and advancements made by African Americans in and out of the military realm,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brown,

equal opportunity advisor for 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

For this particular observance program, the theme was “African Americans and the Civil War.” The program opened with a reading by Chief Master Sgt. Angela Valentine, 673d Force Support Squadron superintendent, intended to demonstrate how slaves shared their thoughts and feelings since they were not allowed to read or write.

Air Force Maj. Lisa Reaver, public affairs officer for the 477th Fighter Group, told the history of the 447th Bombardment Group and its ties to African-American military history.

The unit was originally established in May 1943 to train African-American aviators in World War II who came to be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

After a performance of “Amazing Grace” by family member De’Meatrice Hodges, the event’s guest speaker, Air Force Master Sgt. Henry Strozier, 673d Communications Squadron, spoke on the theme “Why do you serve?” and focused his remarks on self-reflection.

“When I asked myself this question, I was taken back to my childhood and where I have come from,” Strozier said. “I know I am here because I wanted something better for myself. So that is why I serve.”

Closing with a charge for those in attendance to look inside their hearts and ask themselves the same question, Army Col. Morris Goins, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, added his own personal reasons for serving.

Arctic Warriors participate in Fur Rendezvous



The "Part-time Pushers," the Air Force Reserve team from the 477th Fighter Group, react to the Fur Rondy crowds assembled to watch the world's largest outhouse races in downtown Anchorage, Feb. 27. Pushers pictured are, from left, Tech. Sgt. Jose Garza, Airman 1st Class Ryan Weeks and Tech. Sgt. Travis Schlapbach. Tech. Sgt. Leelah Dill "piloted" the outhouse. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Lisa Reaver/477th FG PAO)



ABOVE: Soldiers from B Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, march behind an up-armored humvee, Feb. 26, during the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Festival parade. (Photo by Percy Jones/JBER PAO)

LEFT: Don Cousins of Alberta, Canada, competes, Feb. 27, in the 2011 Fur Rondy Sled Dog Race. The three-heat 25-mile race dates back to 1946. (Photo by Steve White/JBER PAO)

Experience JBER Elmendorf-Richardson



Hillberg Ski Area is OPEN
for Spring Break
Noon - 8 p.m. • March 4 - 13

Dorm & Barrack Residents
Free Hillberg Lift Tickets
and Equipment Rentals
Today, March 4
Noon - 8 p.m.

• Learn to Ski and Snowboard. Lessons are available at our Lesson Center. Call 552-5026 to sign up.

Hillberg Ski Hotline
552-4276



Hillberg Season Passes
are now honored at
Dyea for skiing and
snowboarding.

Hillberg Ski Hotline
552-4276



**JBER Elmendorf Frozen
Tundra Ice Fishing
Tournament**
Today • Noon - 2 p.m.
Hillberg Lake

FREE • Prizes awarded. Must have valid
Alaska fishing license, available at Outdoor
Recreation Center. Fishing equipment and
other outdoor supplies are also available.

**Elmendorf Outdoor
Recreation Center**
552-2023



Saturday Night Karaoke

Every Saturday at the Kashim Lounge you
will have your chance to show your talent.
Must be 18 years old to participate.
9 p.m. - 2:30 a.m.
Kashim
753-6131 or 552-2393

Arctic Oasis COMMUNITY
CENTER

Arctic Oasis Vendors Day

Join us this Saturday and explore what our vendors
have to offer you. Clothing, candles, jewelry and
more. This event is FREE. You may find that certain
item you have been looking for. Check us out.

The doors are open at noon - 5 p.m.

For more information call

Arctic Oasis Community Center at
552-8529

Community happenings

FRIDAY

Dr. Ravi Zacharias

Dr. Ravi Zacharias, an international evangelical Christian apologist, will speak at the Talkeetna Theater, 1 p.m.

The event is open to Department of Defense ID cardholders and their guests.

Ice fishing tournament

Hillberg Lake hosts the Frozen Tundra Ice Fishing Tournament, noon–2 p.m.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-2, for more details.

FRIDAY–SUNDAY

Home show

The Sullivan Arena hosts the Anchorage Home Builder's Home and Remodeling Show, noon–8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 522-3605, or visit www.ahba.net.

SATURDAY

Iditarod start

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Ceremonial Start begins at 10 a.m. at Fourth Avenue and D Street.

The "Last Great Race on Earth," features mushers and their dog teams on the beginning of a 1,049-mile journey to Nome.

For more information, visit www.iditarod.com.

Miners and Trappers Ball

Put on a costume and celebrate the 61st Annual Miners and Trappers Charity Ball, 7:30 p.m., at the Egan Civic and Convention Center. For more information, call 274-1177, or visit www.furrondy.net.

Iditarod Day

The Anchorage Museum hosts Iditarod Day, 1–6 p.m., with dog race-themed family activities and film.

For more information, call 929-9200, or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

All about owls

Meet Arc, a great horned owl, 2 p.m., at the Eagle River Nature Center.

Under the care of Ginamarie Smith of the Bird Treatment and Learning Center, Arc will help attendees learn what makes owls unique.

At 3 p.m., join Liza Sanden for an informational program concerning how to listen for owls in the Anchorage Bowl.

For more information, visit www.emc.org.

Dr. Seuss' birthday

Fairview Recreation Center is throwing a birthday party, 1–3 p.m., for Dr. Seuss and includes crafts, stories and cake for children ages 3–7 years.

For more information, call 343-4130, or visit www.muni.org/parks.

Vendors day

The Arctic Oasis hosts vendors noon–5 p.m. See the 673d Force Support



Race fans cheer as Jane Faulkner and her dogs pass along Cordova Street during the 2010 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race ceremonial start, March 6, 2010, in Anchorage. This year's ceremonial start takes place Saturday, beginning 10 a.m. at Fourth Avenue and D Street. (Photo by John Pennell/JBER PAO)

Squadron advertisement, Page B-2, for more details.

Prayer breakfast

The Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center hosts the Alaska Governor's Prayer Breakfast, beginning at 8 a.m.

For more information, call 223-8399, or visit www.alaskagpb.org.

Roller derby

Rage City Rollergirls host a double header, 7 p.m., at Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center.

The Miners will take on the Trappers in an interleague bout before the Rage City All-Stars take on the Fairbanks Rollergirls for the Rondy Cup.

For more information, call 272-4801, or visit www.ragecityrollergirls.com.

SUNDAY

Tour of Anchorage

Tour Anchorage in a 50k, 40k or 25k ski marathon, at various start times and places 8:30–10 a.m.

For more information, call 276-7609, or visit www.tourofanchorage.com.

Geology of water and ice

Cara Wardlaw-Bailey discusses how glaciers, rivers and freezing winters have shaped the Eagle River valley, 2 p.m., at the Eagle River Nature Center.

For more information, visit www.emc.org.

WEDNESDAY–MARCH 12

Aces vs. Salmon Kings
The Anchorage Aces hockey team takes on the Victoria Salmon Kings, 7:15 p.m. daily at the Sullivan Arena.

For more information, call 258-2237, or visit www.alaskaaces.com.

MARCH 11

Right Arm Night

Officers and leaders have the opportunity to show their appreciation for their "right arm," 3–5 p.m. at the Arctic Chill.

See Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-2, for more details.

To Build a Fire

Join resident volunteer Jack Noll, noon–3 p.m. at the Eagle River Nature Center, for a walk around Albert Loop where children will build a fire along the river.

The event is limited to the first 12 children ages 6 and up accompanied by an adult.

For more information, visit www.emc.org.

MARCH 11 AND 12

Chicago City Limits
Chicago City Limits, an improv comedy group performing for nearly 30 years, headlines at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. and March 12 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

For more information, call 272-1471, or visit <http://alaskapac.centertix.net>.

MARCH 11 AND 19

Snowmachine trip
The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center hosts two Spencer Glacier

snowmachine trips, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., both days.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-2, for more details.

MARCH 12

Marsalis and Blanchard

Grammy award-winning saxophonist, Branford Marsalis and jazz trumpeter Terence Blanchard headline, 8 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information, call 272-1471, or visit <http://alaskapac.centertix.net>.

MARCH 13–27

Camino Real

Cyrano's Off Center Playhouse presents Tennessee Williams' rarely performed play, 7 p.m. Thursday–Friday, and 3 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, visit www.cyrano.org.

MARCH 14–19

Basketball tournament

The Sullivan Arena hosts the Alaska Schools Activities Association boys and girls state basketball tournament.

For more information and game times, call 563-3723, or visit <http://asaa.org>.

MARCH 16

Songwriters of Alaska

Guest artists Amy Lou Hettinger, Melanie Trost, Robin Hopper and Ruby come together to share their experiences in song writing, 5–7 p.m., at the University of Alaska Anchorage Bookstore.

For more information, call 786-4782.

MARCH 19

St. Patrick's Day party

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts their St. Patrick's Day Party, 8 p.m., at the Arctic Chill.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-4, for more details.

Wayans Brothers

Shawn and Marlon Wayans headline, 8 p.m., at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/PP9ML>.

MARCH 26

Sprint triathlon

Swim 18 laps, cycle 12 miles and run 3 miles, starting 9 a.m., at Buckner Physical Fitness Center.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-4, for more details.

MARCH 27

Photography workshop

Professional photographer Roy Corral presents a workshop designed for beginning digital photography enthusiasts interested in sharpening their skills, noon–3 p.m. at the Eagle River Nature Center.

The workshop is limited to the first 20 who sign up.

Call 694-2108 to register.

ONGOING

Volunteer coaching

Due to the large amount of registrations, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Youth Sports Program/

Anchorage Military Community Little League still needs 45 volunteer coaches for the upcoming Youth Baseball and Softball season.

The regular season begins April 15 and concludes June 30.

For more information, call 552-2266 or 384-1508.

Fur Rendezvous

Dating back to the early 1900s, Anchorage Fur Rendezvous features performances, snowshoe softball, ice bowling, the Trappers Ball, and other time-honored wacky events across Anchorage until Sunday.

For more information, visit www.furrondy.com.

Ice Age titans

The Anchorage Museum presents Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age.

Developed by the Field Museum of Chicago, this exhibit includes life-size creatures, skeletons, skulls and tusks; and includes ancient art contemporary to the extinct giants.

For more information, call 929-9200, or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

Cabaret

The Wild Berry Theater hosts Cabaret, one of Broadway's and Hollywood's most famous musicals, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., through April 9.

For more information, call 562-8858, or visit www.alaskawildberryproducts.com.

Ice skating

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson recently opened a new outdoor ice skating rink for winter fun and fitness located adjacent to the Kashim Club.

The regulation ice hockey rink is lit and is professionally resurfaced twice weekly.

Outdoor recreation rents a variety of ice skates.

For more information, call 552-2023.

Hillberg happenings

Hillberg Ski Area is open for Spring Break.

Dormitory and barracks residents ski for free today.

Dyea Ski Area now honors Hillberg season passes.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-2, for more details.

Free shotgun rentals

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Skeet and Trap Range is offering free shotgun rentals during March for new shooters.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-4, for more details.

Kashim Karaoke

Karaoke for ages 18 and older is offered in the Kashim Lounge, 9 p.m.–2:30 a.m.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron, Page B-2, for details.

Library story times

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Community Library hosts story times for different ages.

See the 673d Force Support

Squadron Page B-4 for details.

Night of Discovery

Discovery is a religious education program of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Chapel community and meets on Wednesdays 5:45 p.m.–7:30 p.m. through May 4.

Meals are provided at 5:45 p.m. with classes beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bible-based classes for children K–6 are provided along with a nursery ministry for pre-school youth.

At the same time as Discovery, the Soldiers' Chapel hosts Club Beyond, an ecumenical youth ministry open to all junior and high school youth.

For more information, call 552-6480 or 552-0183.

Wired Cafe

The Wired Cafe is located at 7076 Fighter Dr., between Polaris and Yukla dormitories.

The cafe was built to serve Airmen who live in the dormitories with a home-away-from-home atmosphere.

The cafe has wireless Internet and programs throughout the week.

There are also free home-cooked meals Thursdays with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

For information, call 552-4422.

Parent support program

The New Parent Support Program hosts several activities for families with young children.

In Jay Bear Play Group, parents meet other parents and enjoy a fun time with their children from infants to school age.

The group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30–11:30 a.m. in rooms 16 and 17, Building 337.

In Aqua Play, parents introduce their children, 6 months to school age, to water play and preparation for swimming.

The group meets every Tuesday from 10–11 a.m. at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center Pool.

In Craft Time, parents enjoy a weekly craft activity with their children, ages 2 to 5, followed by an interactive story time for parents and children.

The group meets every Thursday from 10–11:30 a.m. in Room 18, Building 337.

For more information, call NPSP at 580-5858.

Planetarium shows

Embark on a journey to the stars.

Through 3-D graphics, surround sound and a dome screen, the Anchorage Museum's planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the solar system and more.

For more information, call 929-9200, or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

Native Art

The Anchorage Museum presents *(Re) Emergence: Contemporary Alaska Native Art and Design*, exhibiting nearly 50 art works created during the past 50 years by prominent Native artists.

For more information, call 929-9200, or visit www.anchagemuseum.org.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass

Sunday

9 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
10:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1
5 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
(Confession is available 30 minutes prior to Sunday Evening Mass)

Monday through Friday
11:40 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

11:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel Center
Thursday
11:30 a.m. – Hospital Chapel

Confession

Sunday

4:30 p.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Monday though Friday
Before/after 11:40 Mass – Soldiers' Chapel

Protestant Sunday Services

Joint Liturgical Service
9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 2
Protestant Celebration Service
9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1
Collective Protestant Service
11 a.m. – Soldiers' Chapel
Gospel Service
Noon – Elmendorf Chapel 1
Contemporary Protestant Service
5 p.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1

Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates 137 cadets



ABOVE: Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates throw their hats in the air and cheer upon their dismissal from the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony held at the Atwood concert hall Feb. 25. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Guy Hayes/Alaska National Guard PAO)

RIGHT: Alaska Military Youth Academy graduate, Raven Rainwater shakes the hand of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, after receiving her diploma. (Photo by Pfc. Karina Paraoan/AKNG PAO)

FAR RIGHT: Cadet Zachary I. Fetta, class honor graduate, prepares to make remarks at the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony for class 2011-01. One hundred thirty-seven cadets graduated the 22-week long program, Feb. 25. (Photo by Maj. Guy Hayes/ AKNG PAO)



673d Force Support Squadron ♦ JBER-Richardson Events

Did you say **FREE!**

Make sure to check out the snack bar and pick up a frequent shooter card.



Yes, we did. New shooters can receive a free shotgun rental during the month of March! Come for practice or just for fun.
Call 384 - 1480 for more information.

*Shotgun rental is limited for one time use.

The Skeet & Trap Range, Building 45 - 100



Call 384 - 9023 for BOSS.

March 19, 8 p.m.
Come for the Boss & Chill
St. Patty's Day Party!

Show your right arm man or woman that you value them.

The 2nd Friday of every month come down relax and have a good time.
Win points for your company, in the Arctic Chill, BOSS or Warrior Zone.
Company party give away.
See John for details at the Arctic Chill.
The Arctic Chill ♦ Building 655 ♦ 384 - 7619

The Arctic Chill is open to 18 years old and older!



Right Arm Night
March 11
3 - 5 p.m.


SPENCER GLACIER SNOW MACHINE TRIP

March 11 & 19
7 a.m. - 5 p.m. ♦ \$150

Everyone will meet at JBER Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center at 7 a.m.

PLEASE SIGN UP 7 DAYS PRIOR TO TRIP!
WANT TO SET UP A SPECIAL TRIP!
Call us today!




MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT DYE SKI CENTER FOR YOUR OUTDOOR FUN!
Call 384 - 2960 for more information.



SPRINT TRIATHLON

March 26
Start at 9 a.m. until completed.


Sign up at the front desk.



- Swim 18 Laps
- Bike 12 Miles
- Run 3 Miles

Call Buckner Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 690
384 - 1305/1301 for more details.

Let the adventure begin today!



Story Times every Wednesday and Thursday until March 17.
Preschool Story Times are on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Toddler Story times are Thursdays at 11 a.m.
School Aged Story Time is March 18, at 4:15 p.m. People can still use Dial - A - Story at 384 - BOOK (2665).

JBERCommunityLibrary

Building 7, 384-1640

JAFAP conference lends voice to JBER community

By David Bedard
JBER PAO

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Community Education Complex hosted the inaugural Joint Army Family Action Plan conference, Feb. 22–24.

Frederica Norman, JBER AFAP program manager, said dozens of focus group delegates participated, supported by group facilitators, installation agency subject matter experts and a JAFAP operations support staff.

During opening remarks for the Feb. 24 out brief to U.S. Army Alaska Commanding General Brig. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, Norman spoke about adjusting the AFAP process for a joint community.

“This is our first joint base family action plan, and it went very well considering we have two different Armed Forces together,” she said. “They did a fabulous job. They all cooperated and got along very well.”

This year, Norman said there were five focus groups: benefits and entitlements, family support, JBER joint basing, service member support, and youth.

She said issues will be prioritized at JBER before being sent to Palumbo, who will further prioritize USARAK’s issues, which include Fort Wainwright, before sending them to U.S. Army Pacific. Later in the year, USARPAC issues will be addressed at the Army level. During his opening remarks, Palumbo said though AFAP is an Army process, JBER’s JAFAP allows commands at different levels to address issues forwarded by JBER’s joint community.

“This process, from what I’m told, has brought out quite a few of those issues we can solve right here at JBER,” Palumbo said. “We have the (JBER) leadership assembled in this room and if we can solve it, there’s no sense in throwing it up to the higher level.”

Representatives briefed nine issues which include:

Title: Eliminate military dependent dental co-pay

Scope: Military dependents do not receive full dental coverage. United Concordia only fully covers 18 percent of total dental services. The co-pay percentage of TRICARE dental coverage creates financial hardships for many military Families.

Recommendation: Provide 100 percent dental care for military dependents.

Benefits and entitlements delegate Kelsey Shimmin said the focus group felt dental benefits should mirror medical benefits for family members.

“We would like to try and eliminate (financial hardship) and be able to have full coverage, so they don’t have to deal with those stresses and emotional hardships,” she said.

Title: Emergency travel regulation modification for non-biological dependents of service members

Scope: Current Army Regulation 600-8-10 Leaves and Passes does not authorize emergency travel for non-biological dependents of service members. Service members and/or spouses are eligible for emergency travel if his/her immediate family member passes away.



Army Capt. Chase Spears, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, talks about Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson joint basing issues, Feb. 24, during the Joint Army Family Action Plan out brief at the JBER Community Education Complex. (Photo by David Bedard/JBER PAO)

However, according to AR 600-8-10, the non-biological dependent is ineligible for emergency travel if his/her biological parent passes away. This causes unforeseen emotional and financial stress on many of today’s blended Families.

Recommendations: Amend AR 600-8-10, Chapter 6-1 (paragraph D) to include emergency travel authorization for non-biological dependents of Service members.

Shimmin said a regulation amendment would help a lot of non-traditional military families.

“Many people nowadays, our family structure is different,” Shimmin explained. “We have stepchildren or we have parents and aunts and uncles who we have as dependents. We feel...it would only be fair for them to see their deceased relatives as well.”

Title: Rising Numbers of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Cases on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Scope: Domestic violence and child abuse cases are directly impacting mission readiness and the JBER community. Currently, there are no victim advocates on the installation. Reported cases for domestic violence and Child Abuse combined for 2009 and 2010 were 353 and 465 respectively, resulting in a 32 percent increase in cases reported on JBER. Victim advocates are critical to domestic violence and child abuse education, support, and possible prevention. Victim advocates provide personal contact, aid in prevention, training and education, and are readily available to families in crisis. Without immediate changes in awareness, sharing of successful programs, and victim advocate positions these numbers will continue to increase.

Recommendations:

1. Fund Department of Defense victim advocate positions on JBER based on the installation population.

2. Improve communication among different installations to identify and implement successful programs for domestic violence

and child abuse prevention.

A JAFAP panelist said there is a victim advocate position open at Army Community Service and a contract position open at 673d Medical Group.

Air Force Col. Robert D. Evans, 673d Air Base Wing commander, encouraged JBER family services to be creative in helping domestic violence victims in the interim.

“I would ask let’s continue to work hard to get those positions filled with the right folks,” he said. “But let’s also expand the aperture on other caring organizations...that can assist in the gap.”

Title: Paid childcare allowance for Army permanent change of station

Scope: Army families currently do not receive paid childcare allowances when PCSing. The Air Force Aid Society funds 20 hours of childcare per child for pre- and post- PCS moves. Providing paid childcare allowances for Army families will reduce stress on families, ensure a safer environment for children during the moving process and expedite Soldiers’ mission readiness.

Recommendation: Provide paid childcare allowance for Army Families during pre and post PCS moves.

There was little discussion concerning childcare, as Palumbo said he would forward the issue.

Title: Standardization of Joint Base Elmendorf- Richardson procedures and services

Scope: There is a lack of clarity, standardization, and communication on JBER. Inadequate flow of information exist between command, personnel, and families on JBER. Air Force Instructions and Army Regulations differentiate within organizations on JBER, resulting in perceived inequalities. The perception that inequalities exist, negatively impacts morale, retention, and mission readiness.

Recommendations:

1. Commission a task force to identify the challenges of JBER.

2. Amend the JBER memorandum of agreement to implement the solutions identified by the task force

3. Develop a process that continually evaluates the challenges of JBER to establish consistency of procedures and services.

JBER joint basing delegate Army Capt. Chase Spears, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, said his focus group looked at 14 core issues. The group eliminated ten issues which have been resolved or are in the course of being resolved.

“We took the four issues that were remaining, and they seemed to have a common thread,” Spears said. “They dealt with miscommunication, misperception and a general sense of (Soldiers and Airmen) feeling there was an inequality on how the two were viewed at JBER.”

Though Spears said a lot of the problems boiled down to perception, Evans said he wanted to tackle all 14 issues with those who identified them.

Title: Lack of uniformity in welcome home ceremonies for detachment size elements and larger

Scope: Returning elements are receiving unequal, if any, welcome home ceremonies upon return from a combat zone deployment. Currently there is no governing regulation to standardize welcome home ceremonies. Welcome home ceremonies create family morale, unit cohesiveness and recognizes the service member’s contribution and effort.

Recommendations: Establish a regulation to standardize the welcome home ceremony for detachment size elements and larger returning from a combat zone.

Identified as a local issue, Palumbo said he would talk with subordinate commanders to address uniformity of welcome home ceremonies for returning Army units of any size.

Title: No linens immediately available to Soldiers in barracks upon returning from a combat zone

Scope: Soldiers, unlike Airmen, are forced to vacate their room and store household goods during combat deployment. Soldiers returning to the barracks from a combat zone do not have immediate access to bed linens within their household goods. Soldiers are sleeping on bare mattresses. Current combat pre-deployment checklists, do not designate a storage area for immediate access to personal items (bed linens). This creates unnecessary stress at a time when they are transitioning from a combat zone.

Recommendations:

1. Amend the combat pre-deployment checklist for Soldiers in barracks to include personal items (bed linens).

2. Provide storage of personal items (bed linens) during deployment in a secure area within the company, making them immediately available upon the Soldier’s return.

Palumbo said family readiness groups and organizations like Better Opportunities for Single

Soldiers should not address the bed linens shortfall as they have in the past. The general identified unit rear detachments as responsible, and said he will talk to Command Sgt. Maj. David Turnbull, USARAK command sergeant major, about addressing the issue.

A possible solution suggested by a panelist was for rear detachments to set aside a “bed-in-a-box” immediately available to Soldiers upon redeployment.

Title: Department of Defense Youth Sponsorship Program

Scope: There is not a sponsorship program for military youth during transition to a new duty station. Newly arriving youth are unaware of what to expect and don’t know which programs are available to them upon arrival to their new installation. Lack of youth sponsorship programs can make it difficult for youth to transition to a school, affecting academics and peer relationships.

Recommendations:

1. Create an age and gender specific DoD wide sponsorship program for military youth.

2. Assign a point of contact on each installation to oversee the youth sponsorship program.

Youth panelist Matt Bowman said a sponsorship program exists for Alaska, but should be implemented DoD-wide.

“Moving is hard no matter where you move from,” Bowman said. “So we think instead of just having a youth sponsorship program for people moving (overseas), we think youth should have this program where they have someone, when they get there, that they have already talked to and know.”

Title: Separate Facilities for teens on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Scope: There is no teen specific facility on JBER Richardson. The age requirement changed allowing younger children to utilize the Youth Center. The hours at the Youth Center have been limited on nights and weekends. This change forces teens to go elsewhere make decisions that may lead to irresponsible choices.

Recommendations:

1. Create a separate facility for teens ages 13–18.

2. Amend current Child Youth and School Services policy to increase hours of operation on both evenings and weekends.

Panelists discussed how teens don’t wish to recreate with younger children and how more teens would participate at installation youth centers if they had dedicated facilities.

In his closing remarks, Palumbo said he would work with Evans to determine which issues could be addressed at the installation level and which he would forward to USARPAC.

“This has been a very good effort from the grassroots,” Palumbo said. “A lot of these problems will be solved here locally, and now it’s incumbent upon us leaders – who have been taking copious notes – to get after the ones we raised our hands and said we’re going to go after.”

Snowmachine instructor highlights safety concerns

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
JBER PAO

Snowmachining is one of the unique activities which Arctic Warriors can partake in at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Riders need to keep in mind it is a privilege and not a right, said Tech. Sgt. Mike Bowser, snowmachine safety instructor.

“The actions of one bad apple can ruin this for everybody,” he said. “If everybody is courteous and follows the rules, we will be fine.”

He said riders on the Elmendorf side of the base are especially lucky because they can connect to the trails from their front yards. To keep that privilege, they need to recognize the hours of quiet in housing and refrain from running their machines at full throttle throughout the day as well.

Bowser said with regular riders of the trails, he often only has to update them on the status of the trails. He said the recent expansion of the base has modified the trails in some places.

“Just because you see a set of tracks doesn’t mean you can go there,” he said.

Another additional duty of his is to monitor the snowmachiners out on the trails as well. He said he is watching to make sure the riders are safely operating their snowmachines. He looks to make sure their lights are functioning correctly and the machine is not falling apart.

He is also looking closely to make sure the machines are not leaking oil and gas.

“What we do during the winter can

have a detrimental effect in the springtime when the snow melts,” he said. “We want to accommodate the rider, but we have to balance the environmental needs of the base as well.”

Bowser said the liquids can leak into the ground and cause problems. Also, many of the trails cross over lakes and leaking liquids could have a detrimental effect on fishing in those spots.

The weather this year has not provided prime riding conditions.

“One big concern this season has been the low amount of snow,” he said. “We have to have one foot of packed snow to open the trails.”

That amount of packed snow is needed to protect the ground from the high amount of torque that snowmachines are capable of producing.

Bowser said he is also concerned for the safety of the riders as well. He stresses that all riders should bring extra maintenance parts, spare gasoline and water every time they hit the trails.

He fears that riders can sometimes underestimate just how fast they are traveling.

“You can ride further in an hour than you walk in a day,” he said.

Bowser said that one piece of advice that he passes on to anybody who recreates in Alaska is to always let somebody know where you are going.

“If you don’t tell somebody where you are going this state will eat you alive,” he said. “It’s beautiful, but it’s also very dangerous and not very forgiving of mistakes.”



Nathan Dermer, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Outdoor Recreation-Richardson facilities manager, goes over controls of snowmachines with Air Force 1st Lt. Elizabeth Combs, 673d Aerospace Medicine Squadron, before operation of the machine. Low amounts of snow among other factors are of safety concern this winter. (Photo by Steve White/JBER PAO)

First lady, Dr. Biden to launch military family awareness campaign



Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden, met with spouses of National Guard adjutants general at the vice president's residence, Monday. Biden said she and first lady Michelle Obama will launch a formal campaign to raise awareness of military families. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Orrell)

By Tech. Sgt. John Orrell
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON — Dr. Jill Biden and first lady Michelle Obama will campaign to raise awareness of military families, the vice president’s wife told spouses of National Guard adjutants general, Monday.

“In the coming weeks, we are going to be launching a formal campaign,” said Biden, who hosted the spouses for breakfast at the vice president’s residence.

“We’re going to reach out to all Americans,” she said. “Michelle and I are going to go on a tour around the country to create this mass-media awareness, so that the 99 percent of Americans who are not serving can now serve the one percent who are.”

She and the first lady will travel the country encouraging Americans to join these efforts, she said.

“Over the last couple of years, Michelle and I have been traveling all around the country talking to families,” she said. “We’ve brought our stories back to the White House, and now the president and the cabinet are going to act on it.”

Biden, whose son Beau just returned from a year-long deployment to Iraq with the Delaware National Guard, has dedicated herself to bring awareness of “military families’ strength and courage, as well as the challenges that they face,” she said.

“I am a Blue Star mom,” she said.

“I will always remember the mixture of pride and concern that I felt about (Beau’s) deployment,” Biden said. “I feel like we’re all family, all of us together. We share the same concerns, anxieties and sense of duty and pride that comes along with being military family.”

With thousands of Airmen and Soldiers

serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions of the world, and almost half the nation’s military strength residing in the National Guard and Reserve it is almost impossible to overstate the importance they both have, she said.

“In this era, when so much is being asked of the Guard and Reserve, you all have been a source of strength, relieving some of the burden of stress on loved ones left behind,” Biden told the spouses.

Vice President Joe Biden made a surprise stop at the breakfast to share his feelings with the spouses about how state senior leaders make a difference for families during deployments.

“Don’t underestimate the impact that you all have,” the vice president said. “I watched the impact on Jill when our son was deployed.”

The vice president told the spouses about a prayer his wife received from Jane Vavala, wife of Delaware’s adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, during Beau’s deployment ceremony.

“I would walk in every morning into the kitchen, and I would see Jill mouthing this prayer,” he said. “It’s truly a personal gift of kindness.”

Biden recalled that prayer and what she has done with it.

“When Jane sat beside me and handed me that prayer, that prayer meant so much to me, it was such a wonderful gesture of kindness,” she said.

“When I meet families who are being deployed, I try to pass that along, that act of kindness, because I know as a military mom how much that meant to me.”

Biden encouraged people to visit www.serve.gov or contact her office and share how they’re supporting those who serve.



Masters of the craft

Winners of an art contest, (left to right) Michelle Paxon, first place, Xiami Lino-Smart, third place, and Samantha Booth, second place, sit together, Monday, at Ursa Major Elementary School. Students from Ursa Major and Minor elementary schools made artwork welcoming home 23rd Engineer Company (Airborne), 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Feb. 25, at Buckner Physical Fitness Center. The artwork canvassed a wall in the main gymnasium during the unit's welcome home ceremony. (Photo by Steve White/JBER PAO)

At the movies

For recorded show and movie times, call 428-1200 or visit the Army and Air Force Exchange Services website at www.aafes.com. Movies are subject to change without notice. Admission: Adults \$4, children \$2. Information provided courtesy of AAFES.

Now playing



COUNTRY STRONG

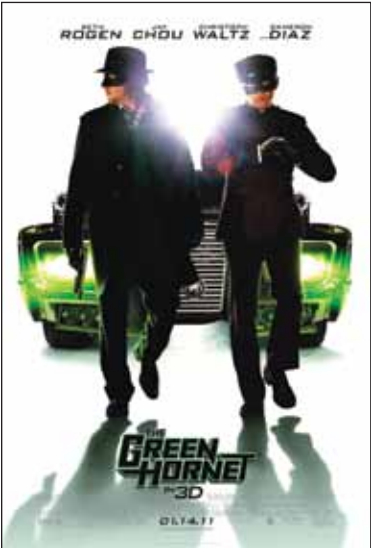
Rated: PG-13 (thematic elements involving alcohol abuse and some sexual content)
Playing: Tomorrow at 7 p.m.
Run time: 117 minutes
Starring: Gwyneth Paltrow, Tim McGraw
Soon after a rising young singer-songwriter gets involved with a fallen, emotionally unstable country star, the pair embarks on a career resurrection tour helmed by her husband/manager and featuring a beauty-queen-turned-singer.

TRUE GRIT

Rated: PG-13 (intense sequences of western violence including disturbing)
Playing: Saturday, at 6 p.m.
Run time: 110 minutes
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross's father has been shot in cold blood by the coward Tom Chaney, and she is determined to bring him to justice.



Coming attractions



THE GREEN HORNET

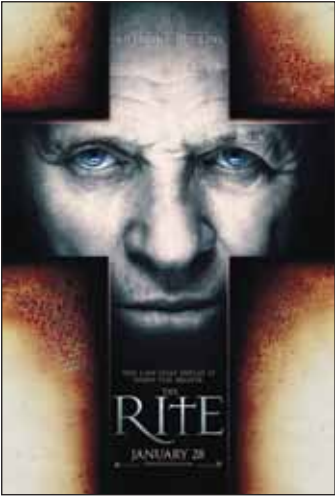
Rated: PG-13 (sequences of violent action, language, sensuality and drug content)
Playing: March 12 at 7 p.m.
Run time: 108 minutes
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Seth Rogen

Britt Reid, son and heir to Los Angeles' largest newspaper fortune, is a rich, spoiled playboy who has been happy to maintain a directionless existence. When his father James Reid dies, Britt meets an impressive and resourceful company employee, Kato. They realize that they have the resources to do something worthwhile with their lives and finally step out of James Reid's shadow.

THE RITE

Rated: PG-13 (language, brief nudity/ sexuality, some violence and a drug reference)
Playing: March 13 at 6 p.m.
Run time: 130 minutes
Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Colin O'Donoghue

"The Rite" follows skeptical seminary student Michael Kovak, who reluctantly attends exorcism school at the Vatican. While he's in Rome, Michael meets an unorthodox priest, Father Lucas, who introduces him to the darker side of his faith, uncovering the devil's reach even to one of the holiest places on Earth.





Members of the 381st indoor soccer team(black jerseys) and the 1-40th team play in the final game of the intermural indoor soccer tournament is played. (Photos by Steve White/JBER PAO)

Army team wins intramural indoor soccer

By Airman 1st Class
Jack Sanders
JBER PAO

Members of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment fought for and held onto their undefeated title after winning the indoor intramural soccer tournament Feb. 28.

The final game ended with a score of 7-6 against the 381st Intelligence Squadron team.

The intramural indoor soccer season started at Buckner Fitness Center in November, and all the practice and participation led up to the final game.

“It was a very well-played game,” said Kyle Stetson, game referee. “Both teams played well and both were aggressive teams, which made a good game. I’m

proud of both of them.”

The game started off well for the 381st with the first goal, but it was answered quickly by the 1-40th. The point wasn’t up long for the 1-40th since there was some dispute over the goal.

“The second goal shot bounced off the edge of the bar and it looked as if it went in and popped back out, so it became a controversial goal. That’s why we reset it at the quarter line,” Stetson said.

Both teams continued to fight for the lead and the championship. The 381st’s strength was their strong defense. The 381st goalie, Joseph Cerullo, stayed positive throughout the game despite having over 40 shots taken at him during the span of the game.

“I lost count after a while,” the goalie said with a laugh.

With Cerullo as a defensive wall, the 381st was able to strike back against 1-40th, almost tying the game near the end.

The 1-40th team smashed through the 381st defense with an aggressive and relentless offensive. They were able to keep the 381st on defense by utilizing their strong ball control. The 1-40th demonstrated their control with quick passes and a barrage of shots.

“We tried to just come out here and play together as a team and work hard like we’ve done all season,” said Andrew Brinkman, 1-40th team captain and coach.

“It was a good game, we lost, but we all put 110 percent into it,” Cerullo said. “We’ll come back next year with the same group of guys, maybe a few more and who knows.”



Members of the 381st (black jerseys) and the 1-40th team play in the final game of the intermural indoor soccer tournament is played Feb. 28. “Both teams played well and bother were agressive teams, which made a good game,” said Kyle Stetson game referee.

Army hammer-thrower to compete in Indoor Track and Field Championships

By Marisa Petrich
JBLM PAO

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MC-CHORD — The thought of standing in the middle of a packed stadium and listening to the roar of cheering fans is not an uncommon fantasy. Army Maj. Mike Mai, commander of the 9th Financial Management Company at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, has actually been there.

It was at the 2009 International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in Berlin. Mai, a hammer thrower, stepped into the circle moments after a German competitor had hit the automatic qualifier for the finals.

The crowd hadn’t yet settled down as he prepared for his turn.

“That, I would say, was one of the moments I can definitely remember,” Mai said. “When you’ve got 50- to 60,000 people cheering and you’re getting in there – and you’re getting ready for your throw.”

Mai fell short of finals, but the cheers led him to his best throw that day. Being at the World Championships in Berlin is not only story-worthy sports accomplishment, however, and hopes are high that it won’t be his last.

On Saturday, he’s competing in the 2011 USA Indoor Track and Field Championships, and in April he’s moving to San Jose, Calif., for his third tour in the Army World Class Athlete Program to train for the 2012 Olympic Trials.

Mai’s been in the program to train for trials twice before.

“We’re hoping the third time’s the charm,” WCAP Sports Special-

ist Mark Dunivan said.

The World Class Athlete Program allows Soldiers who are also elite athletes to train for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Based in Fort Carson, Colo., the program currently has 60 Soldier-athletes training in 14 different sports.

“We’re not going to take the average runner, the average boxer or wrestler,” Dunivan said.

To even qualify for the program contenders must demonstrate that they have a pretty good shot at the Olympics already. But if assigned to WCAP, the Soldier’s main mission becomes athletic training.

“The biggest benefit for a Soldier-athlete is time,” Dunivan said. “It’s hard to work at a job during the daytime and only train part time.”

Time is something that Mai doesn’t seem to have a lot of.

In addition to his duties as commander, he’s been competing in the indoor weight throw (as opposed to the outdoor hammer throw). He trains during physical training and on weekends, and any other time he can spare. He also competes around the country, getting feedback by sending video clips to his coach, Dave Swan, in San Jose.

As if that weren’t enough, his fiancée, women’s high jumper Deirdre Mullen, lives in New Jersey.

The constant traveling can definitely take a toll, Mai said, but it’s a bit easier to cope with the schedule when you’ve been doing it as long as he has. He started as a sophomore at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in 2000. He’s been working with Swan for nearly a



Army hammer thrower Maj. Mike Mai will compete this weekend during the 2011 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships in Albuquerque, N.M. (Photo by Ingrid Barrentine/JBLM PAO)

decade now.

“You know, over the years you get into rhythm that you’ve kind of established all these neural patterns and you know which ones you need to break, and form new ones. And that’s what you just work on over time,” Mai said. “But yeah, I just work long hours and go home and eat and go to sleep and do it again the next day, and then on the weekends I get my long (training) sessions in.”

It’s a level of dedication that

he’s known for. If anything, he can be too driven.

“You always look at your athletes, and some need to be pushed and some need to be guarded against themselves,” Swan said.

Mai is the kind that needs to be told to take a break once in a while.

After last year’s Nationals he took about a month and a half off due to tendonitis.

Once he got back to training he focused on strength training. Now Mai thinks he’s as strong as he’s

been since 2006.

He’s also been doing some more indoor meets this year.

“Even though the weight throw indoors is a little bit different than outdoors, the hammer, it’ll still benefit me,” Mai said.

At this point in the season, Mai’s winding down his of his training so he can rest up and focus on the quality of his throws.

After nationals, he’ll be honing in on a different goal – the 2012 Olympics.

NORTHER LIGHTS VIEWING AFTER GEOMAGNETIC STORM

By JBER PAO

Photos to the right and below are of the Norther Lights from Anchorage and Wasilla Tuesday and Wednesday.

A solar wind stream hit Earth’s magnetic field on March 1st, sparking a day-long geomagnetic storm and bright auroras around the Arctic Circle, according to www.spaceweather.com



(photo by John Pennell /JBER PAO)



(photo by Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders/JBER PAO)



(photo by Senior Airman Chris Gross/JBER PAO)



(photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia/JBER PAO)